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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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12 November 1964

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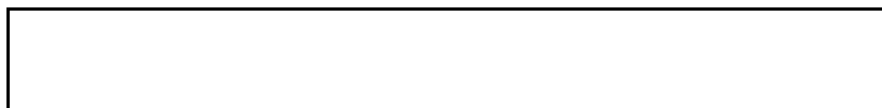
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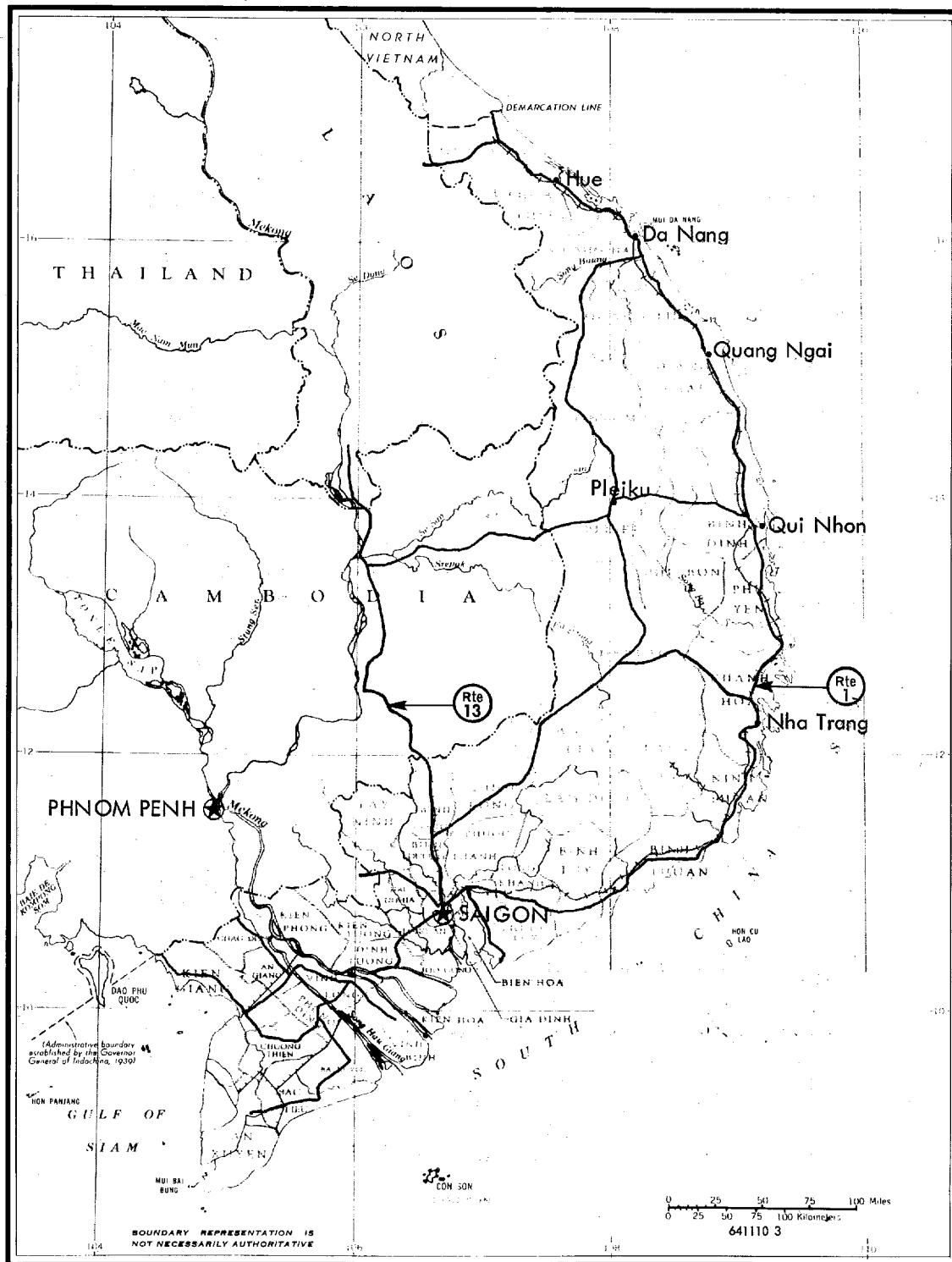
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South Vietnam



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South Vietnam: Typhoon and flood damage is adding to the government's problems in the central coastal provinces.

A typhoon which struck Binh Dinh Province on 4 November destroyed 23 of the government's coastal patrol junks and severely damaged junk base facilities in the capital city of Qui Nhon. Subsequent flooding along the coast and inland river valleys has closed part of the coastal highway, already disrupted by Viet Cong sabotage. Nearly 900 inland refugees have been evacuated by air.

Political refugees fleeing Viet Cong harassment in recent weeks had already reached 10,000 in Qui Nhon, and 1,000 in the capital of Quang Tin Province. The influx of flood victims and the additional road disruption may temporarily tax local food supplies. However, there are adequate rice stocks in Saigon.

The Communists may make foraging raids on the coastal towns if, as is likely, the floods have also damaged Viet Cong supplies.

The level and intensity of Viet Cong activity in the country as a whole has changed only slightly during the past month. This suggests that the Communists are holding themselves in readiness to exploit the difficulties of the new Huong government in Saigon. Huong has so far forestalled open agitation against him by warning that he would take strong countermeasures, but students in the capital have reportedly threatened to demonstrate if he does not revamp his cabinet by this weekend. The question of support for the government probably will be discussed at a meeting tomorrow between the High National Council and Huong. [REDACTED]

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NOTES

Israel: Prime Minister Eshkol is facing serious dissidence within his Mapai Party. Former prime minister Ben-Gurion and his followers, including Moshe Dayan, a Sinai war hero who resigned from the cabinet last week, are disputing the terms on which Eshkol has negotiated an electoral alliance with another, smaller party. Another Mapai faction recently left the party to form an independent "movement," and further trouble is likely to come to a head at a party convention at the end of this month.

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United Nations: Four prominent UN ambassadors have approached the Soviet, French, British and US delegations with a "voluntary rescue operation" to avert a showdown over the Article 19 issue. They propose to ask all UN members to contribute something to alleviate the UN's financial problems, hoping thereby to give the Soviet Union and France a face-saving method of paying their arrears before the General Assembly convenes. Reiterating past Soviet views, Soviet chief delegate Federenko nevertheless indicated willingness to submit the proposal to Moscow and requested that there be no publicity.

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*Bolivia: The junta is maintaining its shaky hold on the government. Political parties and powerful interest groups have not yet contested the junta's authority, apparently to gain time to strengthen their organizations and plan future courses of action. Pro-Communist labor leader Juan Lechin is already calling for an early return to civilian rule.

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